

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus are provided that allow the automatic discovery of the topology of a network. In one embodiment, the invention includes identifying a second network device at a first network device, sending a message from the first network device to the second network device, the message establishing the identity of any network device between the first network device and the second network device, and compiling the established identities to determine the topology of the network. The invention can use PING and Traceroute utilities to find nodes and identify network devices.